



CITY OF ASTORIA

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 17, 2026

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: SCOTT SPENCE, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDER A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS:

During the May 26, 2026, Work Session, the Astoria City Council received a presentation from consultant Jessamyn Grace West for the purpose of reviewing the Astoria Arts & Culture Strategic Direction Recommendation Document. At the time of the meeting, staff and the consultant's recommendation was to develop a City of Astoria Arts & Culture Advisory Commission. During the June 22, 2026, Work Session's Agenda Setting Discussion, the Astoria City Council reaffirmed their goal to promote arts & culture in Astoria and requested that staff move forward with drafting language for Council to consider that would establish a city wide Arts & Culture Advisory Commission.

Background:

In January 2024, the Astoria City Council identified helping support Astoria's thriving Arts Community as an essential priority within their City Council Work Plan, and a key element in their goal of supporting a thriving local economy. The City allocated \$60,000 in order to support Arts in Astoria and move forward the Arts & Culture Program Development project. In April 2025, the City of Astoria hired Jessamyn Grace West as the consultant to assist the City in accomplishing this project. The following deliverables were part of this project:

- Task 1 Deliverable: Arts and Culture Community Catalogue
- Task 2 Deliverable: Engagement Feedback Summary
- Task 3 Deliverable: Arts and Culture Funding Opportunities List.
- Task 4 Deliverable: Astoria Arts & Culture Strategic Direction Recommendation Document.

Next Steps

If Council chooses to approve the Resolution to create the Arts & Culture Advisory Commission, then the following next steps should occur:

1. Appointment of Commission Members - The Mayor will need to appoint five Commission members to voting members of the Commission. The Mayor will need to decide which members of this Commission will start with a 2 year term vs a 3 year term. City staff are recommending that the first full meetings of the Commission be at the beginning of 2027.
2. The City Manager will appoint City staff to be the Commission's administrators.
3. Winter 2026 Introductory Work Session. To help prepare the Commission for the work

they will be doing starting in 2027, City staff are recommending that an Arts & Culture Advisory Commission Work Session be scheduled for winter of 2026. This Work Session would be an opportunity for the Commission to meet each other, and go over with staff the Arts & Culture Strategic Direction Recommendations Report as well as review the guidelines related to this Commission.

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommends that Council review the Resolution. If Council is satisfied with the Resolution establishing the Advisory Commission, then staff recommends that Council make the following motion:

I move that the Astoria City Council approve the resolution establishing an Arts & Culture Advisory Commission.

BY: RYAN QUIGLEY, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER

ATTACHMENTS:

[Arts Council Resolution.pdf](#)